the requirement of revenue-gap grants is also an exercise which accords special consideration to backward states. States, which are relatively more backward are not able to raise as much of their own revenues as better off States. This gets built into the assessment of revenue-gap grants.

Finance Commissions also take particular note of specific requirements of each State during their visits. Such requirements are met through recommendation of grants for special problems and upgradation and thus provide an opportunity to backward states to put forth their claims.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1947. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any independent evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes is being done;

(b) if so, the organization and agencies making independent evaluation;

(c) The details of norms being adopted from scheme to scheme; and

(d) The outcome of the evaluation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Programme Evaluation organisation (PEO) has been set up as an independent agency for the evaluation of development programmes being implemented under Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes. The PEO undertakes evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation as per the requirement of various divisions of the Planning Commission and Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The Evaluation studies are designed to assess the performance, process of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery system and impact of programmes. These studies are diagnostic and derive lessons for improving the performance of the existing

schemes through mid-course corrections and better design of future programmes.

(d) The Planning Commission is making user of evaluation findings for assessment of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, improving performance through mid-course corrections and deciding their continuation in future.

Projection of GDP growth rate

1948. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 8 per cent growth in GDP is being proposed during the Tenth Five Year plan period; and

(b) if so, in what manner the growth can be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Approach paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) approved by the National Development Council on 1st September, 2001, it is proposed that the Tenth Plan should aim at an indicative target of 8% per annum GDP growth for the period 2002-2007.

(b) The Tenth Plan has not yet been formulated.

Categorisation of States for financial assistance

1949. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for placing a State in the special category for grant of financial assistance and other help;

(b) whether a review of the criteria is in progress;

(c) if so, the details of the specific areas of concern highlighted by different States being reviewed; and

(d) the States presently placed in the Special Category and those which are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Special